GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1264
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
WAITING LIST FOR TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people of rural areas in the country including Uttar Pradesh have to wait for two years for telephone connections;

(b) if so, the number of waitlisted subscribers during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to clear the waiting list?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCTNDIA)

(a) & (b) There is no waiting list in the case of mobile phones in the rural areas of the country. However, in case of wireline and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), there is a wait list of more than two years in rural areas in some of the States of the country and this wait list does not include the State of Uttar Pradesh, As on 30.09.2008, the total number of waitlisted subscribers consisting of wtrelme and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) in the rural areas of the country is 2,46,886.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to clear the waiting list are given below:

(i) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is procuring 19.2 lakh lines of WLL equipment during 2008-09.On commissioning of these equipment, rural areas in the country are expected to be covered by WLL for providing fixed telephone on demand.

(ii) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with BSNL and other Private Service Providers for provision of Rural Household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in 1685 commercially unviable SDCAs in the country including in the State of Uttar Pradesh.